

Talk It Over

King Jesus

(Week 2)

Submit to His Authority

SMALL TALK

1. Where was your best “job” and why was that a good experience? And your worst (and why)?

VIEWPOINT

2. **READ Matthew 28-18-20.** What was given to Jesus? Why was this given to him? (Compare Philippians 2:5-11)
3. What is “authority”? Is it good? Is it bad? Under what conditions? Give some examples
4. What is the big deal about the transitional word “therefore” in vs. 19? How does this relate to “authority”?
5. What are the 4 actions commanded in vs. 19? Which one is central?
6. Is this every disciple’s mission? What does it look like “make disciples”?

GETTING PERSONAL

7. A disciple experiences transformed **MORALS** (transformed lifestyle: It’s what I do), **MEANING** (transformed identity: Because of who I am now), and **MISSION** (transformed purpose: Because of who He Is!) Describe one of these transformations you have experienced, and one with which you struggle.
8. Do you struggle with being under Jesus’ authority? What are some steps toward experiencing greater blessing under his authority?

MAKING PROGRESS

9. Who is on your “mission” list to love and influence with the Gospel? Pray for each other’s “mission”.

October 11, 2020

King Jesus

2-Submit to His Authority

How is that for a title? 2 of the 4 words in the title are words people really detest. Many people really don't like the concept of "submit", or "authority". Why do we hate these words? Sometimes it is because of bad experiences and perceptions of what those words mean, and with good reason.

But the word "**submit**" is neutral; it is a little like the word "employee". It is a neutral term by itself and can be good or bad depending on the employer! The word "employee" can be fantastic, or it can be terrible. It is fantastic if you are out of work and you finally land a job that does more than take care of your bills, and it is in reality a wonderful blessing.

A friend from high school days later got a job with google when it was a new and growing company. He was elated to become a google employee. It was quite a blessing to him. And yet even that blessing came with requirements. And like any employee he had to "submit" to the company's practices, culture, values, time schedule, methods and expectations, etc... But my point is...he saw that as a blessing not a curse.

So the neutral term "submit" is the same way, it depends on who you are submitting to.

Now let me shift to another illustration of submission.

Why is it that the very best of the best athletes will voluntarily submit to a coach? I mean think about that!

ILLUSTRATION: Why would even the best of the best athletes submit to a coach telling them what to do when they are better than the coach ever thought of being? The answer is this:

The best path for becoming the best version of you is the path of submitting to the right someone with authority. Don't settle for being your own coach. If you do, you settle for less.

God designed us to grow and function best within the pathway of letting someone teach us and coach us.

Now let me **up the ante a bit**. Let's talk about being a soldier at war. How important is submitting to an authority there? How important that we are under the right authority there? It would be very important to you while you are pinned down and surrounded by the enemy. The only weapon you have is not just the assault rifle in your hands. You also have the superpower to call upon with the arial power and ability to bring pinpoint accuracy to soften the enemy in some precise way to rally a rescue from a surrounding army!

This illustration comes even closer to the concepts we are talking about when we start talking about being in the Jesus' Kingdom, because Jesus is still waging war on the Kingdom of darkness, and our battle is not against flesh and blood, and we need his spiritual authority, and weapons that are not of this world when we encounter powerful spiritual conflicts.

[Can I just tell you about one I had 3 weeks ago? Sunday, dizziness!... Power of prayer]

So, I believe this message is mission critical. Super important to understand.

We will actually see these themes come together.

Matthew 28:18–20 (NIV) ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

I. Who’s in Charge? JESUS

Matthew 28:18 (NIV) Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Jesus has all authority. Jesus is that super power we were talking about, with no rival. And yet the war is not over. His kingdom is expanding. He is taking over a fallen universe!

I take great comfort in this! Submitting to His authority is the best path. Submission is not a threat, but a blessing, and great comfort! Nevertheless, we need to understand this is serious business.

Authority is the right to command, enforce, punish, and reward.

There is a judgment coming. This may feel heavy handed, and people hate this. They really do, but what if it is true? Wouldn't you want to know? I'm convinced it is true. I'm convinced the evidence all stacks up with thousands of prophecies, and detailed fulfillments, with a literal resurrection, complete with 500 witnesses.

By the way, we don't know how many people heard this “Great Commission, and witnessed his ascension. But 1 Corinthians 5:6 talks about a crowd of 500 witnesses at the same time. Though I can't prove it because it doesn't say, I believe this was that occasion. .

As followers of Jesus, we need submit to his authority! One big problem!

We North Americans are endlessly conditioned to distrust authority. We are encouraged to question authority. We are urged to color outside the lines. Even to children, Disney's Elsa sings, "To test the limits and break through. No right, no wrong, no rules for me. I'm free!"

Some of our distrust for authority is well deserved. But a lot of the distrust in North America is little more than an immature desire to remain in charge. We want to command our own destiny, and define our own rules, and usually with devastating results.

WARNING: We are often tempted to look for "the real me" and "what I really want", but the "selfish me" always tempts us to take easy paths and ditch hard commitments.

What happens when we take such paths? We betray the King. We kick him off the throne of our hearts. We declare ourselves as ruler of our own lives. This is high treason! What are the results? God gives us over to the dark kingdom of me. The Spirit of God in us is grieved and cries out in protest. This is guilt, and conviction. When ignored, our consciences become harder. Watch out! This is very dangerous territory.

King Jesus is a better king than we will ever be of our own lives. Submitting to his authority is our only hope. This is always true, no matter how well you think you are doing.

II. Your Mission: **CHANGE** the **WORLD**

Matthew 28:19–20 (NIV) ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey

everything I have commanded you...

This is for every disciple (not just pastors). All the verbs are in the plural (You). Every disciple is called to this mission.

Since this is the King's great commission, we need to submit to his authority. To fail to do so is high treason.

Review from last week: The church is not a cruise ship for consumer choices, it is a rescue ship, with a commander giving us assignments!

Your mission is to change the world.

III. How? Do the “Math” (*mathēteuō*): MAKE DISCIPLES

Doing the “math” is word play based on the Greek word for “make disciples”. Jesus wasn't satisfied with adding numbers of people to a crowd and calling it church. He had a better plan. It is not by addition. It is by multiplication! Do you see how Jesus plan is a formula for exponential growth?

Jesus is still asking us to do this kind of math—disciple making—*mathēteuō!*

Disciple Making...

- Is NOT an information based school model.
- It is NOT merely having more “Bible studies” and knowing more.
- It is NOT Bible Study; IT IS taking Bible STEPS!
- It is NOT pastors on platforms speaking to crowds. It takes place in a relational context with an obedience based model! It is teaching and coaching the practices!

“teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”

What exactly is the method for “making disciples”?

“Making disciples” is the process of incrementally teaching someone who Jesus is and what it means to follow him.

“Making Disciples” means teaching people incrementally to:

- 1) ... **WANT** him as savior and king,
- 2) ... **COMMIT** their allegiance to him, and
- 3) ... **GROW** in what it means to become like Jesus.
 - **MORALS** (transformed lifestyle: It’s what I do)
 - **MEANING** (transformed identity: Because of who I am now)
 - **MISSION** (transformed purpose: Because of who He Is!)

Jesus has a mission, and he has a method for accomplishing his mission.

He blesses you to be a blessing. He removes your heart of stone and replaces it with a heart of flesh, and puts his spirit in you to want to obey everything he commanded us. This is a supernatural work. You cannot do this on your own. All of this is made possible through his death, burial, and resurrection.